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# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## PIGGYBACK TRUCK-RAIL SERVICE

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Piggyback truck and rail service has boomed in the years since World War II, and now is offered by most major railways. A truck trailer is pulled to a warehouse or factory, loaded with merchandise, the loaded trailer is backed onto a flatcar and hauled by rail to its destination city; there a truck tractor pulls it to the door of its destination, or perhaps to several locations within a city for multiple deliveries. The principal saving compared to ordinary rail freight comes through eliminating at least one loading and unloading operation. Compared to long distance truck operations, one train crew can haul several trailers, with a saving in manpower and in hours. Pictures were taken for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.



N-25761--This trailer, filled with merchandise, is being loaded on a flat car in Chicago, only a few blocks from the Loop district, and a comparatively short distance from the factory making the shipment. The picture was made in late afternoon. The car was scheduled to be in New Orleans next day.



N-25751--Flat cars used in piggyback hauling require special equipment to anchor trucktrailers firmly during hauling. Picture shows ramps, wheel chocks and chains.



N-25755--In this picture, anchor chains and braces are in place on the front end of the trailer after it has been spotted on the flat car. A workman is placing chocks in front of the rear wheels.



N-25753--The light colored objects are wheel chocks, placed in front and behind the wheels on the rear end of the trailer.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.00 each from the same address.





N-25752--Here is a trailer being backed from the loading ramp onto the first of a string of flat cars. Loading ordinarily takes place in late afternoon.

N-25757--Some of the trailers must be backed the length of several cars in the loading process. To unload, tractors pull the trailers forward.



N-25759--Early morning arrival in Chicago. These truck trailers were loaded on flat cars yesterday in New Orleans, Memphis, or St. Louis. This picture was taken about 7:00 A. M. By 9 o'clock, most of the trailers will have been delivered to their destinations in Chicago.